(c) Escalation In the cost of all the inputs including fuel and feeds stock over the years accounts for increase in the cost of production. The consumer price of fertilizers is still below the cost of production and the landed cost of import.

(d) A Parliamentary Committee on Fertilizer Pricing has recently been constituted which is examining the matter.

(e) and (f) India normally does not export chemical fertilizer.

Drug Prices

1174. DR. SANJAYA SINH : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news items captioned "Despite patent protection Most Drug Prices to remain unaffected" appeared in the Indian Express dated the 19th December 1991;

(b) whether Government share the view that prices of 95 percent of the drugs produced in the country would remain unaffected even if India went in for patent protection and that the remaining 5 percent would be costly as stated by Mr. Geza Feketekuty the Senior policy advisor to the U.S. Trade Representative; and

(c) what are the details in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI CHINTA MOHAN) : (a) Yes; Sir.

(b) and (c) On the basis of available information, it is estimated that the value of formulations based on drugs covered by product patents abroad marketed in the country, is about 10—15%.

Increasing the prices under new drug policy

1175. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the new drug policy would increase prices of drugs by 400 percent in some cases and if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether Government have any plan to safeguard the interest of the low income groups and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (CHINTA MOHAN) : (a) (and) (b) It has been the endeavour of Government to ensure easy availability of medicines in abundant quantity at reasonable prices to the consumers. This aspect is being borne in mind while reviewing the existing drug policy.

Restriction on use of fertilizer technology

1176. SHRI RAMNARAYAN GOSWAMI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any restriction on the use of fertilizer technology by fertilizer companies;

(b) whether Government have taken or proposes to take a decision to allow free selection of fertilizer technology; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI CHINTA MOHAN) : (a) to (c) Under the new Industrial Policy announced by Government in July, 1991, Indian companies are free to negotiate the terms of technology transfer according to their own commercial